WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. An isolated and purified polynucleotide that encodes a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide.
- 2. The isolated and purified polynucleotide of Claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA molecule.
- 3. The DNA molecule of Claim 2, wherein said encoded polypeptide is a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma.
- 4. The DNA molecule of Claim 2, wherein said encoded polypeptide comprises the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 5. The isolated and purified polynucleotide of Claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide base sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 6. An isolated and purified polynucleotide that encodes a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide, said polynucleotide preparable by a process comprising the steps of:
 - (a) constructing a library of cDNA clones from a cell that expresses said polypeptide;
 - (b) screening the library with a radio-labelled oligonucleotide probe;
 - (c) identifying a clone that hybridizes to the probe; and
 - (d) isolating the hybridized clone from the library of unhybridized clones.

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- 7. The isolated and purified polynucleotide of Claim 6, wherein said polynucleotide is prepared by a process comprising the steps of:
 - (a) constructing a library of cDNA clones from a cell that expresses said polypeptide;
 - (b) screening the library with a radio-labelled oligonucleotide probe;
 - (c) identifying a clone that hybridizes to the probe; and
 - (d) isolating the hybridized clone from the library of unhybridized clones.
- 8. An isolated and purified polynucleotide comprising a base sequence that is identical of complementary to a segment of at least 10 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polynucleotide hybridizes to a polynucleotide that encodes a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide.
- 9. An isolated and purified peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide.
- 10. The receptor polypeptide of Claim 9, wherein the polypeptide is a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma polypeptide.
- 11. The peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide of Claim 9 that comprises the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 12. An expression yestor comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide.

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- 13. The expression vector of Claim 12, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide base sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 14. A recombinant host cell transfected with a polynucleotide that encodes a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide.
- 15. The recombinant host cell of Claim 14, wherein the cell is transfected with the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 16. A process of preparing a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide comprising:
 - (a) transfecting a cell with a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide to produce a transformed host cell; and
 - (b) maintaining the transformed host cell under biological conditions sufficient for expression of the polypeptide.
- 17. The process of Claim 16 wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide base sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 18. An antibody immunoreactive with a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide.
- 19. The antibody of Claim 18, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody.
- 20. A process of detecting a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide, wherein the process comprises:
 - (a) immunoreacting the polypeptide with the antibody of Claim18 to form an antibody-polypeptide conjugate; and
 - (b) detecting the conjugate.

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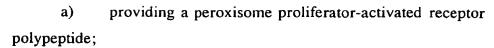
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- 21. A process of detecting a messenger RNA transcript that encodes a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide, wherein the process comprises:
 - (a) hybridizing the messenger RNA transcript with a polynucleotide sequence that encodes the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide to form a duplex; and
 - (b) detecting the duplex.
- 22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide and a physiologically acceptable carrier.
- 23. A diagnostic assay kit for detecting the presence of a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide in a biological sample, said kit comprising a first container containing a first antibody capable of immunoreacting with said peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide, wherein said first antibody is present in an amount sufficient to perform at least one assay.
- 24. A diagnostic assay kit for detecting the presence, in a biological sample, of a first polynucleotide that encodes a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide, said kit comprising a first container that contains a second polynucleotide identical or complementary to a segment of at least 10 contiguous nucleotide bases of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 25. A process of screening a substance for its ability to interact with a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor, said process comprising the steps of:



b) testing the ability of said substance to interact with said peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor polypeptide.

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